

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/660,761**
Response filed May 15, 2006
Reply to OA dated February 24, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. No amendment is made in this Response. It is believed that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **February 24, 2006**.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Serikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,902,863). (Office action paragraph no. 3)

The rejection is respectfully traversed by Applicant's assertion of the claim for foreign priority. Serikawa is prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as of its filing date of March 19, 2003, since the present application was filed on September 12, 2003. The claim for foreign priority of JP2002-270063, filed on September 17, 2002, has already been made and the certified copy of the priority document has already been filed in this application. Applicant also notes that the content of the priority document was incorporated by reference in this application (specification, page 1, lines 10-11).

To perfect the claim for foreign priority (MPEP 706.02(b)), Applicant has attached a verified English translation of JP2002-270063. Applicant submits that the pending claims are fully supported by the priority document. Specifically, support for pending claims 1-8 can be found, for example, in claims 1-8 of JP2002-270063, on pages 1-2 of the verified translation.


Reconsideration of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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DAG/lrj

Enclosure: Verified English translation of the priority document of JP2002-270063

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